GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:416
ANSWERED ON:17.11.2016
Compulsory Rain Water Harvesting
Raghavan Shri M. K.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government for compulsory harvesting of rain water in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the scientific assistances extended for rapid conservation of water harvesting including the amount spent and the total volume of water conserved during the last three years, State-wise;
(c) whether Kerala is expected to experience shortage of water for the 2016-17 period due to lack of rain; and
(d) if so, the action being taken to ensure adequate water for drinking as well as agriculture purposes in the State along with the steps taken to increase the ground water level in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued advisories to the Chief Secretaries of all States and the Administrators of all UTs to take measures to promote/adopt rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water. 30 States/UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in Building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.

(b) Water being a State subject, necessary measures to conserve the water resources are being undertaken by the State Governments. However, efforts made by the Central Government to conserve the ground water resources in the Country includes:
â€¢ The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR, inter-alia, advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall and other management measures. The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all State Governments/ UTs and concerned Ministries/ Departments of Central Government for adoption of the policy.
â€¢ This Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model bill.
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â€¢ CGWB has also prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during 2013, involving ground water scientists/experts. The Master Plan envisages construction of 1.11 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the Country at an estimated cost of Rs. 79,178 Crores to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Metre) of water. The augmented ground water resources will enhance the availability of water for drinking, domestic, industrial and irrigation purpose. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.
â€¢ The Department of Rural Development has prioritized work related with Natural Resources Management (including water harvesting) under MGNREGA and has issued a join framework with the Ministry of Water Resources and Department of Land Resources. The framework stresses on utilizing the technical resources of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaai Yojana (PMKSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and Central Water Commission (CWC) along with use of GIS technology of ISRO for planning and monitoring purposes from FY 2017-18 onwards. For FY 2016-17, the States have taken up a target of 8,82,325 farm ponds.
â€¢ CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans with community participation.
â€¢ CGWB has been organizing mass awareness programmes in the Country to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.
â€¢ Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has also launched 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' (2015-16 to 2017-18) in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the Country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement. 'Jal Gram Yojana' component of 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' envisages selection of two villages in every district, preferably 'over-exploited' or facing acute water scarcity, as 'Jal Grams' to ensure optimum and sustainable utilization of water.

(c) & (d) As per the information received from the State Government of Kerala, all 14 districts of the State have been declared as meteorologically drought affected. The State Government has already issued guidelines for ensuring drinking water to the public through kiosks, water tanks, de-siltation of water bodies and mass awareness programme for ground water conservation and recharge. Further, the State Government has directed to cut down the ground water extraction of water based industries.

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